

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

- A
1. (Presently Amended) A process for sizing paper comprising adding to an aqueous suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers, and
(i) a sizing dispersion comprising a sizing agent and at least one polymer having one or more aromatic groups, and
(ii) a sizing promoter comprising at least one a polymer having one or more aromatic groups, forming and draining the obtained suspension, wherein the sizing dispersion and the sizing promoter are added separately to the aqueous suspension.
 2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the sizing dispersion is anionic or cationic.
 3. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the sizing agent is a cellulose-reactive sizing agent.
 4. (Original) The process according to claim 3, wherein the cellulose-reactive sizing agent is a ketene dimer or an acid anhydride.
 5. (Original) The process according to claim 3, wherein the sizing agent is a ketene dimer.
 6. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer having one or more aromatic groups comprised in the sizing promoter is charged.
 7. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer having one or more aromatic groups comprised in the sizing dispersion is anionic or cationic.
 - 8-100. Withdrawn from consideration by the accompanying response to election requirement.

101. (Newly Added) A process for sizing paper which comprises adding to an aqueous suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers, and

- (i) a sizing dispersion comprising a cellulose-reactive sizing agent and an anionic polymer having one or more aromatic groups being a step-growth polymer, a polysaccharide or a naturally occurring aromatic polymer, and
- (ii) a sizing promoter comprising at least one cationic organic polymer having one or more aromatic groups,

forming and draining the obtained suspension, wherein the sizing dispersion and the sizing promoter are added separately to the aqueous suspension.

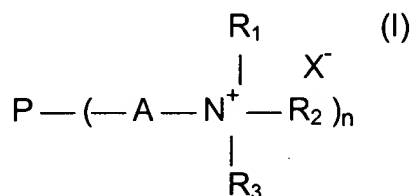
102. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 101, wherein the cellulose-reactive sizing agent is a ketene dimer or an acid anhydride.

103. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 101, wherein the cellulose-reactive sizing agent is a ketene dimer.

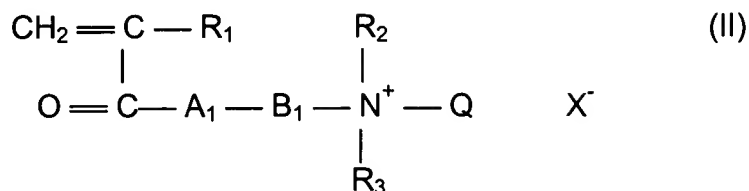
104. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 101, wherein the cationic organic polymer of the sizing promoter is a cationic polysaccharide or a cationic vinyl addition polymer.

105. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 101, wherein the cationic organic polymer of the promoter is a cationic polysaccharide.

106. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 104, wherein the cationic organic polymer is a cationic polysaccharide having the structural formula (I):

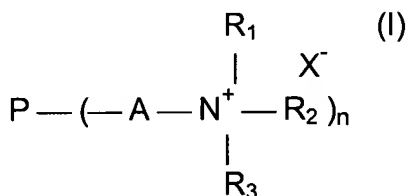


wherein P is a residue of a polysaccharide; A is a chain of atoms comprising C and H atoms attaching N to the polysaccharide residue, R₁ and R₂ are each H or a hydrocarbon group, R₃ is an aromatic hydrocarbon group, n is an integer from 2 up to 300000, and X⁻ is an anionic counter ion; or vinyl addition polymers obtained by polymerising a cationic monomer or a monomer mixture comprising a cationic monomer represented by the general formula (II):



wherein R_1 is H or CH_3 ; R_2 and R_3 are each an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, A_1 is O or NH, B_1 is an alkylene group having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms or a hydroxy propylene group, Q is a substituent containing an aromatic group, and X^- is an anionic counterion.

107. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 105, wherein the cationic organic polymer is a cationic polysaccharide having the structural formula (I):



wherein P is a residue of a polysaccharide; A is a chain of atoms comprising C and H atoms attaching N to the polysaccharide residue, R_1 and R_2 are each H or a hydrocarbon group, R_3 is an aromatic hydrocarbon group, n is an integer from 2 up to 300000, and X^- is an anionic counter ion.

108. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 107, wherein A is an alkylene group with from 2 to 18 carbon atoms, optionally interrupted or substituted by one or more heteroatoms; R_1 and R_2 are each H or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; R_3 is a benzyl or phenylethyl group.

109. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 101, wherein the sizing promoter further comprises anionic microparticulate particles.

110. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 109, wherein the anionic microparticulate particles are silica-based particles.

111. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 109, wherein the anionic microparticulate particles comprised in the sizing promoter are added to the aqueous suspension after both the sizing dispersion and the cationic organic polymer comprised in the sizing promoter.

112. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 101, wherein the conductivity of the suspension is at least 3.5 mS/cm.

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113. (Newly Added) The process according to claim 101, wherein the conductivity of the suspension is at least 4.5 mS/cm.
